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27 September 1951

PROPOSED REVISION: Paragraph 2b of SE-13

1
b. Atomic Capabilities. While Soviet atomic capabilities will remain inferior to those of the US, it is estimated that the Soviet stockpile of atomic weapons (some of which might have an energy yield as high as 100 kilotons) will increase as follows:

Present	-	50
Mid-1952	-	100
Mid-1953	-	200

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 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
 ☒ DECLASSIFIED
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At present the Soviet air force has an estimated 170 and E strength of about 600 to 700 TU-4 medium bombers capable of one-way missions, carrying atomic bombs, to practically all important targets in the US. Although there is no evidence that the USSR

The following factors must be considered in connection with the estimate of Soviet atomic capabilities must be considered as uncertain for the following reasons: *above estimate of Soviet atomic capabilities.*

(a) The number and/or size of the production facilities postulated as a basis for this estimate may be incorrect. The minimum program, which is not inconsistent with the information available, would provide a stockpile of about one-half the number of weapons indicated. On the other hand, from the information available at the present time, the possibility that additional or expanded production facilities will be constructed during the period under consideration cannot be precluded.

(b) The type of weapon postulated for calculating the stockpile figures may be incorrect. It is possible by changing the weapon design to substantially increase or decrease the number of weapons in the stockpile, given a certain quantity of fissionable material. Such changes, however, alter the kilotonnage of the individual weapons accordingly.

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has developed aerial refueling techniques, with such techniques these aircraft may be capable of two-way missions to most important US targets. By mid-1952 the USSR may have approximately 1,000 TU-4's and by mid-1953 about 1,200. By mid-1953 the USSR also may have approximately 100 long-range bombers capable of round trip missions against nearly all vital targets in the US. It probably will have by this time substantial numbers of twin-jet high performance bombers capable of atomic attack on Western Europe and US overseas bases, and possibly a jet bomber capable of attacking the US. By mid-1953 the USSR should also have sufficient stockpiles of nerve gas for sustained, extensive employment.

- 2 -

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